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THE MARGARET LEGEND.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—I am grateful to PROFESSOR HART for directing my attention to the threefold reference to St. Margaret contained in the Leofric Missal. The confusion of dates is probably owing to the fact that many Latin Passionals celebrate St. Margaret not only at the date xiii Kal. Aug. (easily corrupted by a scribe into iii Kal. Aug.) but also at the date iii Id. Jul., where her name usually appears as *Marina*, according to the ritual of the Eastern church.

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BRIEF MENTION.

'Aus meiner Welt' (New York: Henry Holt & Co.) is a collection of short stories written by Frl. M. MEISSNER, teacher of German in Dresden, for the use of her English-speaking pupils. We have to thank the American editor, Professor CARLA WENCKEBACH of Wellesley College, for furnishing with a very complete vocabulary a new text-book that will be read with interest in our beginners' classes in German. The tales are simple and entertaining, though following unavoidably in the wake of well-known models, sometimes with a perhaps too pointed and obtrusive moral. One excellent feature that tends to make this collection preferable even to GRIMMS' 'Märchen' and similar standard books, is the simplicity of the language, the author having, without becoming monotonous, carefully avoided any difficulty that might call for a lengthy note. This will recommend the little book to all teachers of German who know how to appreciate that "varietas delectat." The vocabulary contains a few misprints easy to be detected and corrected, viz., Kucheck, Kuckun, Langerweile, Uberanstrengung, etwas sich wohlschmeckend lassen. The marking of the accent would have been welcome, and should never be omitted in introductory German readers.

'Sept Grands Auteurs du dix-neuvième siècle,' by PROF. ALCÉE FORTIER (Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.), was first given to the public

of New Orleans in lectures at Tulane University. The authors treated are LAMARTINE, HUGO, DE VIGNY, ALFRED DE MUSSET, GAUTIER, MÉRIMÉE and COPPÉE. The first four form a series apart; with the remaining three they represent the chief features of the Romantic school and its offshoots. The method of exposition of PROF. FORTIER is simple and attractive. The works, in chronological order, are made to illustrate the life of the writer. Analyses of the more important of them are supplemented by the choice of many shorter poetical gems, which vary most agreeably the pages of the book and further recommend it to instructors who wish to acquaint their pupils with the leading poets of the century (12mo, pp. vi, 196; price, 60 cts.).

The *Société des anciens textes français* has added to its quota for 1889 'Les Contes moralisés de Nicole Bozon, frère mineur,' edited by LUCY TOULMIN SMITH and PAUL MEYER. In the Introduction by the latter the date of the 'Contes' is set probably after 1320. The two MSS. which contain them belong to the middle of the fourteenth century. A study of their contents reveals three kinds of moralisings known to the Middle Ages: facts of natural history, the so-called "propriétés des choses" (see 'Hist. litt.,' vol. xxx); *exempla*; and fables, mainly of animals. The originality of the writer, who gathers his material from both learned and popular sources, consists in the morals he draws, which are addressed to the popular mind. In this also lies the main value of his 'Contes.' From the 'Contes,' but more particularly from the still unpublished poems of BOZON, considerable in amount, M. MEYER attempts a short study of the author's language, without important results. Subjoined to the text, which contains one hundred and forty-five stories, is a Latin translation of a portion of them, belonging to the end of the century. The accompanying notes (pp. 229-298) are particularly full and valuable. The volume concludes with a vocabulary and index.

PROF. F. MAX MÜLLER of Oxford has published 'Three Lectures on the Science of Language and its place in General Education' (London and New York: Longmans, Green, & Co.),